

safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members.

Students have rich and diverse learning opportunities in art and music, and library skills are part of every child's learning. World language instruction starts in the first grade, and computer science classes start in grade 3. Students benefit from interdisciplinary learning through the garden-greenhouse and through celebrations such as Arts Nights, Coder Express, and Engineering Night.

This award recognizes that Falmouth Elementary School students achieve at the highest level. The school involves all students in extracurricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Falmouth Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

#### RECOGNIZING FOURTEENTH STREET SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Fourteenth Street School in Bangor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from prekindergarten through the third grade, this outstanding school in the city I am proud to live in is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The success at Fourteenth Street School is the result of two guiding philosophies. The first is "meet the students where they are," with instruction and support tailored to the strengths and needs of each individual student. The second is "all hands on deck," a call for all staff members to engage with students and encourage them to achieve their full potential.

One of the unique features of Fourteenth Street School is the use of every opportunity during the school day to support learning. Whether in the classroom, preparing for recess, or standing in the lunchroom, students may be par-

ticipating in a math game, reciting a rhyme, or singing. The entire school eats lunch together daily, and a staff member uses this time to read aloud to students. This focus on literacy even extends to physical education classes, where the PE teacher often reads articles from sports magazines to students.

The impact of this dedication to individual students is evident. Over the last 5 years, average attendance exceeded 95 percent, and 100 percent of students participated in at least one afterschool activity.

Another important factor in the school's success is the emphasis on building strong relationships with families. Through schoolwide and classroom newsletters, parent meetings, parents and educators accelerating kids—PEAK—events, academic showcases, and, most important, direct communication with teachers, parents have the opportunity to play a significant role in their children's education.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students of Fourteenth Street School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. This outstanding school is making a difference in the lives of its students, helping them to become independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Fourteenth Street School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

#### TRIBUTE TO PEGGI HANRAHAN

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an Alabamian who has spent more than two decades in public service, Peggi Hanrahan.

Many people in Washington, DC, know Peggi as the executive assistant and gatekeeper to the former Alabama Senator, Jeff Sessions, who is now the U.S. Attorney General. For more than 20 years, Jeff Sessions has been a strong leader on the issues of legal reform and immigration. In order to speak with Jeff Sessions on any issue, you had to go through Peggi.

Peggi has earned praise from the countless people she has worked alongside throughout the years. Here are a few statements from her former colleagues.

Attorney General Sessions stated:

Peggi has been at the center of everything we have accomplished in public service. She loves America and its ideals, is smart, decisive, loyal, and a total professional. She speaks up for the high principles she believes in, and for two decades has been the key point of contact in our office for thousands of Alabamians and Americans all over the Country. She has provided invaluable service to me, the Nation, and the so many who she trained and mentored. Though we will miss her marvelous contributions, we wish her all the best as she and Kevin embark on this next adventure.

Kate Hollis, then-Senator Sessions' former scheduler, said the following:

For 14 years I had the pleasure of working side by side with Peggi for Senator Jeff Sessions. We were a great team and became great friends during that time. I can attest that she was one of the hardest working people in the United States Senate who always went the extra mile to assist Senator Sessions and our staff, as well as our constituents from the great State of Alabama.

Pete Landrum, former military legislative assistant under former Senator Sessions, stated:

Peggi Hanrahan is a great colleague and friend. She is a person that can be depended on when things are good or when things are bad—it doesn't matter.

Danielle Cutrona, counselor to the Attorney General, said:

Peggi is an institution in our office. Her loyalty and dedication to then-Senator, now Attorney General Sessions and to his staff has been unwavering. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Peggi all these years and will miss her tremendously.

Michael Brumas, former press secretary for Senator Sessions, said:

The phrase "best in the business" certainly applies to Peggi Hanrahan, who served for more than two decades as Jeff Sessions' executive assistant, first in the Senate and then at the Department of Justice. In many ways Peggi was the backbone of the Senate office, with a knack for solving those administrative dilemmas that always crop up in a busy Senate office as well making sure the senator stuck to his active schedule—not always an easy task.

Senator Sessions' first chief of staff in the Senate, Armand DeKyser, said the following:

From the earliest days of Senator Sessions' tenure when Peggi began sitting just outside Jeff's transition office, she never was more than 20 feet from his desk. She was THE constant among all the many staff that worked for Senator and now Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Her calm demeanor combined with a wonderful work ethic are so very vital to the successful operation of a complex staff operation. She was composed, efficient and trustworthy on the most harried of days—a presidential inauguration, a swearing-in, or even the fateful 9/11 day. Even on a normal day—if there is ever one of those—Peggi's demonstrated support both up and down the ladder of responsibility was one of her best traits and one most admired by all.

Alan Hanson, now Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, said:

Peggi Hanrahan is a national treasure. She is both a trusted confidante and an invaluable colleague. While she will be sorely missed by all of us, her retirement is both hard earned and well deserved.

Paige Hanson, a former Sessions staffer, said:

While I know the Attorney General will miss the benefit of having Peggi around, we are truly happy for her and grateful for her service and friendship.

Stephen Boyd, former communications director for Senator Sessions and now Assistant Attorney General, said:

It is difficult to overstate the important role that Peggi played for all those years in the Senate office. If things got done, it was usually because Peggi made it happen. Her service to then-Senator and now Attorney General Sessions, the Senate, and to the people of Alabama has been tremendous. She is one of many who asked not for recognition

or public appreciation, but only for the opportunity to serve her country alongside a leader she respected. It was a pleasure to work with her for many years, and I certainly hope that she enjoys the retirement that she has clearly earned.

Finally, Rick Dearborn, Senator Sessions' longtime chief of staff and now White House Deputy Chief of Staff, said:

Peggi Hanrahan was an extraordinary member of Senator Sessions' former Senate staff. She is part schoolmarm, part drill sergeant, with a pinch of traffic cop and a spoonful of soft marshmallows all rolled into one. Indispensable in the Senator's office, Peggi made it all run. She organized the Senator's office, our lives, his life, kept up with all our constituents and friends back home, both with personal notes she and the Senator would spend significant time on and checkup calls. She'd place those calls with his good friends back home, often early in the morning and after hours. She was, along with Kate Hollis, the Senator's scheduler, the glue that held us all together. It would have been impossible to manage the Senator's office without her. She was my Senate colleague, my teammate, and continues to be my very dear friend. I wish her and her husband Kevin the absolute best as they enter the next chapter of their lives, separate from the two institutions they served so well, the Senate and the House.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to join all of those who are wishing Peggi and Kevin a very happy retirement.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARTA FORD

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an Iowan who served bravely during the Vietnam war as an Active-Duty nurse and spent nearly three decades in the Army Reserves.

LTC Marta Ford grew up in the small town of Killduff in Iowa's Jasper County. Her father was a World War II veteran who served as a bombardier, flying missions over Europe. She decided to join the Army Nurse Corps at the age of 19, while still in nursing school. Ford underwent basic training in 1966 at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Then, she was stationed at Fort Lee in Virginia. Ford served as an Active Duty member of the Army Nurse Corps until 1969 and remained in the Army Reserves until 1975. She rejoined the Reserves in 1980 and served until retirement in 2004.

Currently, Ford serves her local community as chair of the Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs. In 2013, Ford became the first female commander at the American Legion Post 111 in Newton, IA.

She is just one of the many women and Iowans who served our Nation during the Vietnam war era. All those who honorably served deserve our thanks for their service to our country. I ask my colleagues to join me as I proudly recognize LTC Marta Ford, an Iowan who dedicated her life to service and sacrifice on behalf of this great Nation.●

##### REMEMBERING JOHN T. NOBLE AND RECOGNIZING THE MAINE VETERANS CEMETERY IN CARIBOU

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the significance of Maine Veterans Cemetery-Caribou and the individual and community spirit of generosity that sustains it as an honored and hallowed resting place for our Nation's veterans.

Conceived in 1998, the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou was created because of a small but determined grassroots effort in Aroostook County, ME, that I was proud to support when I was Governor of Maine and am proud today to acknowledge as Senator for Maine. A diverse team of dedicated people came together to create the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Corporation, NMVCC, comprised of members from various veteran service organizations, community members, and veterans themselves who knew the significance of this undertaking. Since the first concept many hands have helped develop and beautify these 46 acres which provide inground burial for 12,000 and columbarium wall niches for over 1,000 more of our honorably discharged veterans. But this cemetery represents so much more than a final resting place.

It is fitting to include in this statement the name of John T. Noble, the distinguished veteran who epitomizes the efforts behind this cemetery. John would not want all the credit to go to him, and indeed there were many who worked tirelessly to make their dream come to fruition; however, it was the late John T. Noble, along with his wife Joyce, who made the first significant and lasting donation of 33 acres of his family's land to honor veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. They went on to donate even more land and provide countless donations to ensure this cemetery was one to be proud of. John lived by example as a person of great ethics, compassion, and generosity. He possessed these traits throughout his life as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, a businessman, a husband, and a quiet philanthropist who didn't seek recognition for his good works. His motivations were never about himself but about how he could give back to others.

Our veterans risk their lives in the service to our great Nation. They make countless personal sacrifices to protect freedom, and many go on to continue to find ways to serve others—like the honorable efforts of a small community in northern Maine to turn what once was farmland into a reverent final resting place for those who gave so much. It is my honor to recognize the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery-Caribou and to pay tribute to John and Joyce Noble. Due to the generosity they demonstrated, the northern region of Maine is able to provide a proper final resting place for our brave veterans.●

##### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

##### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13712 OF NOVEMBER 22, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO BURUNDI—PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to the situation in Burundi, is to continue in effect beyond November 22, 2017.

The situation in Burundi, which has been marked by killing and other violence against civilians, unrest, the incitement of violence, and significant political repression, and which threatens the peace, security, and stability of Burundi and the region, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 with respect to the situation in Burundi.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

##### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12170 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1979, WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.